HIS MAJESTIES

LETTER AND DECLARATION

TO THE

SHERIFFES and *CITY* of LONDON.

January 17. 1642.

G. Brit. -- Sovereigns, &c., 1625-1649 (Charles I)

Printed, by His MAJESTIES Command,
AT OXFORD, *January* 18.

By LEONARD LICHFIELD Printer
to the Universitie. 1642.

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LETTER AND DECLARATION TO The SHERIFFES and City of LONDON.

January 17. 1642.

TRusty and Wel-beloved, We greet you well. We have lately received a Petition from the Aldermen and Common-Councell of our City of *London*, by the hands of Persons instructed by them for the delivery thereof, who found such reception from Us, as well manifested Our regard to that body which sent them; though We well knew by whom that Petition was framed, and where perused and examined, before it was approved by those from whom it seemed to be sent, yet We were so willing to enter into a correspondence with that Our City, as to receive any addresse and application according to that invitation We had given by Our Proclamation, and were glad to find that there

was yet some hopes they would look to the Peace and happinesse of that City, and at last sever themselves from any Faction or dependence, which might insensibly involve them in those Calamities they did not foresee, that We returned such a gracious Answer thereunto, so full of Candor and Affection, that the meanest Inhabitant of that Our City, if he carefully consider the same, will find himselfe concerned in it, and that We have had an especiall care of his particular. With this Answer of Ours We sent a servant of Our own, in the company of those who had been so well used here, to require and see that it might be communicated to the whole body of that Our City, not doubting but that both it and the Bringer should receive such Entertainment there, as might manifest their due regard of Us, and of Our Affection to them: But to Our great wonder, We finde that after ten daies Attendance, and suffering ridiculous Pamphlets to bee published in Our name, as if We retracted Our former Resolutions, (which Pamphlet We have caused to be burned by the hand of the Hangman, as we also require you to see done) instead of that admission We expected to Our Messenger and Message, guards of Armed Men have been brought to keep Our good Subjects, to whom that Our Answer was directed, from being present at the reading thereof; and Speeches have beene made by Strangers (who have beene admitted the City Councells, contrary to the Freedome and Custome of those meetings,) to Blast Our said Answer, and to Dishonour and Slander Us, which if Our good Subjects there shall suffer, We shall be much discouraged in Our desired correspondence with that Our City, and so by the cunning and power of those Incendiaries mentioned in Our Answer (Alderman *Pennington* (who to show his great Loyalty to Us, and his fitnesse to

be the chiefe Magistrate of such a City, being informed that a desperate person there, said, that *he hoped shortly to wash his hands in Our Bloud*, refused to send any Warrant, or to give any direction to any Officer for his Apprehension,) *Vane*, *Fulk*, and *Manwaring*) who have plunged that Our City into such unspeakable Calamities, in which they would still keep it to cure their own desperate condition, Our good Subjects there are not suffered to receive Our gracious Answer to that Petition; We have therefore thought fit to write these Our Letters to you, requiring you the Sheriffes of Our said City, to take care for the publishing that Our Answer (which We herewith send you) to Our good Subjects of that Our City; And Our pleasure is, That you the Masters and Wardens of the severall Companies of Our said City forthwith summon all the Members of your severall Companies, with all the Freemen and Apprentises (whose hopes and interests are so much blasted in these generall Distractions) belonging thereunto, to appeare at your severall Halls, where you shall cause Our said Answer, together with these Our Letters, to be publiquely read, that all Our good Subjects may cleerly understand how farre We have been from begetting, how farre We are from continuing or nourishing these unnaturall civill dissentions, and how much it is in their owne power to remove the present pressures, and to establish the future happinesse and glory of that famous City, and may seriously weigh every part of that Our Answer, as well that which carries caution in it for the future, as pardon for what is past, for assure your selves, for the time to come, We shall proceed with all severity against such who shall incurre the penalty of the Law in those poynts, of which We have given them so faire a warning in Our said An-

Lawes, and whosoever shall not behave himself like a good Subject in this Our Kingdome, shall not (if We can help it) receive the benefit and advantage of being Our Subject in any other; but all Forraigne Princes shall know that as such Person hath parted with his Loyalty to Us, so he must not hope for any Security by Us, and to that purpose We shall henceforward have a very inquisitive Eye upon the Actions of all Our Subjects, that some example may be made, how easy it is for Us to punish their disloyalties abroad, who for a time may avoyd Our Justice at home. And to the end that none of Our good Subjects of that Our City may think themselves bound to obey any of the Orders or Commands of the pretended Lord Major (whom We have and doe still accuse of high Treason, & conspiring to take Our Life from Us,) It is well known to those Citizens who understand the Charter of that City (so amply granted by Our Royall Progenitors, and so graciously confirmed by Us, and of which We presume Our good Subjects there doe still desire to receive the benefit,) that the said *Isaak Pennington* was never regularly elected, or lawfully admitted to the Lord Major of that Our City, that in truth Alderman *Cornwell*, was by the plurality of voyces chosen, and that this Man was never presented to, or admitted by Us, in such manner as is prescribed by their said Charter, neither had that Judge, who presumed to sweare him, any more colour of Law or Authority to administer such an Oath to him, then he hath to doe the same to morrow to any other Alderman of the City: And We doe therefore hereby Declare the said *Isaak Pennington* not to be Major of that Our City of *London*, and to have no lawfull Authority to exercise the same, and that Our good Subjects of that Our City, ought not to submit to any Or-

ders,

directions, or commands which shall issue from him the Lord Major of that Our City, but that the same are void and of none effect. And We doe once more require you the Sheriffes of Our said City, and all other the Magistrates of the same, in which all Our good Subjects of that City will assist you, that you cause the said *Isaac Pennington*, *Vere*, *Fulke*, and *Manwaring*, to bee apprehended and committed to safe Custody, that Wee may proceed against them as guilty of high Treason, and principall Authors of those Calamities which are now so heavie upon Our poore Subjects of that City, and if not suddenly remedied, will in a short time utterly confound that place, and a People lately of so flourishing an estimation in all the parts of Christendome. And whereas Wee are informed that one *Browne*, a Wood-monger, *Titchborne* a Linnen Draper, and one *Harry* a Silke-man, have exercised great insolencies and outrages in that Our City, and when many of Our good Subjects there, have assembled together in a peaceable and modest manner, to consult about the Peace and welfare of that City, the said mutinous and seditious persons have presumed to lead Multitudes of armed Men against them; and by such force have beaten, wounded, and killed Our good Subjects; Our Will and Pleasure is, that if the said *Browne*, *Titchborne* and *Harry*, or either of them, shall so farre neglect Our gracious offer of Pardon, as still to engage themselves in those unwarrantable and seditious courses, That you Our Sheriffes of *London*, raise power to suppresse the said forces, and that you and all Our Ministers of Justice, use your utmost meanes to apprehend the said persons, and to bring them to condigne punishment. And We doe hereby Declare, That it shall be lawfull for any of Our loving Subjects, to resist and oppose the said

persons,

Persons, if they shall hereafters in such a warlike man[illegible] endevour to molest them as they would doe Rebels [illegible] Traytours: And We hope that all Our good Subjects that Our much injured City of *London* doe take notice Our Grace and Favour towards them in Our so fre[illegible] passing by and pardoning the Offences there commit[illegible] against Us, as Wee have offered by Our Proclamati[illegible] and Our late Answer; and of Our very earnest desire to [illegible] with them, and to reside amongst them for their Co[illegible] fort, Support and Protection, if they shall, by first pro[illegible] ding for their owne security (in such manner as We ha[illegible] directed them in Our late Answer) give Us an instan[illegible] that We may be safe there too; And that they doe lik[illegible] wise observe, that being by such violence kept from the[illegible] We have done Our utmost endevour to continue and a[illegible] vance the decayed trading of that Our City, by permi[illegible] ting and encouraging all resort and traffique thither, a[illegible] therefore if by the stopping of Carriages, and seizi[illegible] Commodities by other men, the commerce and cor[illegible] spondence bee broken betweene that place and Our go[illegible] Subjects of other Counties, they will impute that m[illegible] chiefe to the true Authors of it, and looke upon Us on[illegible] as not able to helpe them. Doe but your Duties, and th[illegible] Cloud, which threatens a present confusion, will quick[illegible] vanish away, and you will enjoy all the Blessings of a ha[illegible] pie Nation, to the which no endevour of Ours shall b[illegible] wanting.

Given at Our Court at OXFORD, *this* 17. *day of* JANUARY. 1642.

FINIS.